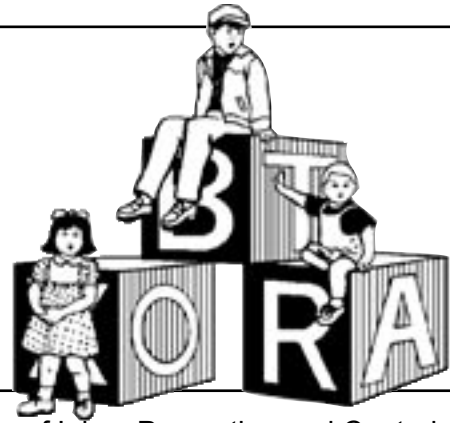


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries



North Dakota Department of Health

Fall 2003

Division of Injury Prevention and Control

Are Hotel/Motel Cribs Safe?

Many traveling families use cribs and play yards provided by motels and hotels. Estimates show that children younger than 2 spend more than seven million nights per year in hotels, motels and resorts. The CPSC estimates that there are about 65,000 hotels and motels in the nation.

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign inspected cribs and play yards in 90 hotels in 27 states. Of the cribs inspected, 82 percent had at least one safety hazard, including loose hardware or lack of secured mattress supports that could entrap a baby; soft bedding, including quilts, comforters or pillows that could cause suffocation; and adult-sized sheets that pose a strangulation and suffocation hazard. Of the mesh play yards inspected, 52 percent had at least one safety hazard, including soft bedding and holes or tears in the mesh, that pose an entrapment risk to babies.

CPSC and SAFE KIDS encourage parents to ask ahead if the hotel or motel in which they are planning to stay has a system in place to ensure their cribs are safe. Below is a checklist that can be used to help determine if the crib is safe. If any question receives a “yes” response, the crib should be removed from service until it is repaired or replaced:

Cribs

- Has the crib been recalled?
- Are the crib slats more than 2 3/8 inches apart?
- Are the slats loose, missing or cracked?

- Is the mattress too loose – more than two finger widths between the edge of the mattress and the crib side?
- Are the corner posts higher than 1/16 inch?
- Are there cutouts in the headboard or footboard?
- Could baby easily release drop-side latches?
- Are the screws or bolts that secure crib components loose?
- Is the mattress support not securely attached to headboard and footboard?

Mesh Play Yards

- Has the mesh crib/play yard been recalled?
- Does the mesh have a large weave? (1/4 inch opening or greater)
- Does the mesh have holes, tears or loose threads?
- Is the mesh not securely attached to top rail and floor plate?
- Does the top rail cover have holes or tears?
- If staples are used on the equipment, are some missing, loose or exposed?



Children's Chairs Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Wal-Mart voluntarily are recalling approximately 75,000 Home Trends Kiddy Sling Chairs. The small plastic bolt covers pose a choking hazard to small children.

The chair is a steel outdoor chair with a white frame and a pink or blue sling fabric seat and back. The chair measures about 9.5 inches in height.

The chairs were sold at Wal-Mart from November 2002 through May 2003. Consumers should remove the plastic bolt covers or return the chair to Wal-Mart for a refund. Call Wal-Mart at 800.925.6278 for more information.



Toy Necklaces Recalled

L.M. Becker & Co. Inc. and CPSC are recalling 1.4 million toy necklaces. The necklace's pendant contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children.

The necklaces consist of a 10-inch black cord with a gray metal pendant that is 7/8-inch in diameter. The metal pendant has assorted symbols on one side.

The necklaces were sold from vending machines in malls and discount department and grocery stores nationwide from March 2002 through April 2003.

Consumers should contact the company for instructions about how to get a refund. Consumers can contact L.M. Becker & Co. Inc. at 888.869.6569.



Children's Puzzles Recalled

CPSC and Small World Toys are recalling 3,000 Puzzibilities Recycling Truck Puzzles. One of the puzzle pieces (a stack of newspapers) poses a small-parts choking hazard to young children.

The recalled Recycling Truck Puzzle has nine wooden pieces that form a green recycling truck. The top of the puzzle reads "Recycling Truck."

Small toy stores nationwide sold the puzzles between February 2003 and August 2003.

Consumers should stop young children from playing with these puzzles immediately and return the puzzle to the store where it was purchased for a refund. For more information, contact Small World at 800.421.4135



Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov

www.health.state.nd.us

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This newsletter can be accessed at
www.ndmch.com/injury-prevention/publications.asp



Children's Swim Trainers Recalled

Swimways Corp. and CPSC are recalling 3,400 swim trainers. The nylon body strap on the swim trainer can detach or tear from the flotation trainer and release a child into the water, posing a serious drowning hazard to young children.

The recalled "Sandy Claws" swim trainer is a red and yellow fabric crab with eight stuffed legs and two eyes covering a styrofoam buoyancy float. Black straps that are attached to the side seams fasten around a child. Swim Ways is printed on the underside of the crab float.

Specialty pool and toy stores nationwide and Internet retailers sold the floatation devices from January 2003 through July 2003.



Consumers should stop using the swim trainers immediately and return them to the company for a full refund.

Stacking Toy Recalled

International Playthings Inc. and CPSC are recalling 5,000 toy-stacking rings. The plastic knobs on the rings can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The recalled Bobbie Bear Stacking Rings have a blue and orange rounded bottom, two multicolored stacking rings and an orange plastic bear head top. The toy can be spun like a top and makes a rattling sound when shaken.



Bobbie Bear Stacking Rings were sold at specialty stores nationwide from April 2002 through March 2003.

Consumers should stop using the product and contact the company for instructions about how to return the toy to receive a free replacement item of similar value. Call International Playthings at 800.445.8347 for more information.

Dora the Explorer Book Recalled

CPSC and Simon and Schuster are recalling 26,000 Dora the Explorer board books. A plastic replica of a balloon attached to the book can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The heavy-cardboard book has "Whose Birthday Is It?" printed on the cover in yellow letters. A cutout in the top left corner of the book has a small plastic replica of a balloon attached. The yellow and orange balloon is used as a slide to reveal answers to questions in the book.

Discount stores, department stores and bookstores nationwide sold the book during August 2003. Consumers should take the book away from children immediately and contact Simon & Schuster at 800.223.2336 to receive a free replacement book.



Toy Safety Shopping Tips

Shopping for toys during the holidays can be exciting and fun, but it can also be frustrating. There can be thousands of toys to choose from in one store, and it's important to choose the right toy for child's age. Toys that are meant for older children can be dangerous for younger children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that each year about 100,000 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.

To help consumers choose appropriate toys for children, CPSC offers the following tips:

- The CPSC requires toy manufacturers to meet stringent safety standards and to label certain toys that could be a hazard for younger children. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide. Labels on toys that state "not recommended for children under three ... contains small parts" are labeled that way because they may pose a choking hazard to children younger than 3.
- Toys should be developmentally appropriate to suit the skills, abilities and interests of the child. Toys such as motorized cars and electrical products may be too advanced and could pose safety hazards to younger children.

- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses and other potential parts. Check to see that seams and edges are secure on dolls and stuffed animals. Avoid toys that contain small pellets or stuffing that can lead to suffocation or choking if swallowed.
- Avoid toys that shoot small objects into the air or make loud snapping noises. This will decrease the risk of serious eye or ear injury.
- Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points. For a baby or toddler, don't buy toys that have metal parts.
- Do not purchase electric toys that have heating elements for children younger than 8. Electric toys for older children should carry the "UL Approved" label.
- If buying a toy gun, ensure that the barrel or the entire gun is brightly colored so it cannot be mistaken for a real gun.
- Be cautious of ordering toys through the Internet. Warning labels may not be posted.
- Toys that have long strings or straps can be very dangerous to children and present a strangulation hazard.

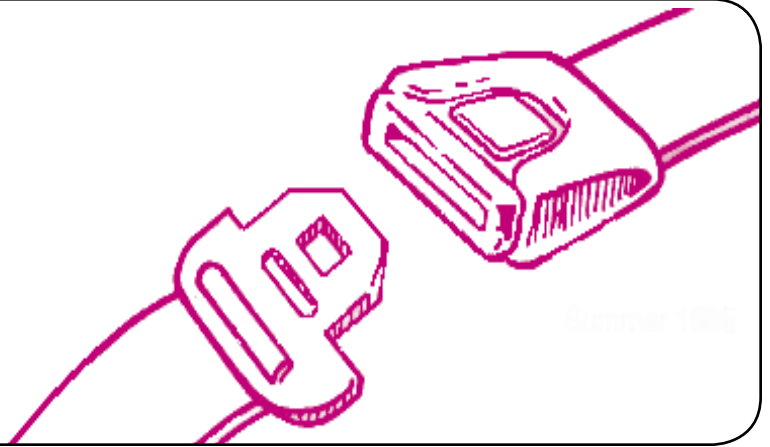


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The Buckle Update



A Car Is Not a Toy, Playground, or a Babysitter

Many caring and responsible parents have left children alone in or around cars, not realizing the risks involved. Some parents think it's fine to leave children alone in a car while they run a quick errand. The children may be sleeping in their car seats, and the parents believe the children are safe and don't want to wake them. However, the risks are too great and the results can be deadly.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 9,160 children ages 14 and younger were treated in hospital emergency departments for injuries caused by being left unattended in or around motor vehicles. In 2002, the Kids 'N Cars organization received reports of 113 fatalities relating to unattended children and vehicles. The majority of the fatalities were children younger than 5.

The risks of leaving children in a vehicle or allowing them to play near vehicles include:

- Being inadvertently backed over in a driveway or parking lot.
- Being left in a vehicle where temperatures can reach deadly levels in minutes.
- Knocking the vehicle into gear and setting it into motion.
- Being strangled by a power window, sunroof or power accessory.
- Being taken by a stranger during a car theft.
- Climbing into the trunk during a game of hide-and-seek.
- Being poisoned by carbon monoxide.

Kids 'N Cars offers the following safety tips:

- Never leave children alone in a vehicle, even to run a quick errand.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway.
- Place keys out of the reach of children.
- Walk around and behind a vehicle before moving it.
- If a child is locked inside a vehicle, get them out as quickly as possible.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.
- Teach children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle.

For more information, visit www.kidsncars.org.



Car Safety Seat Recalls



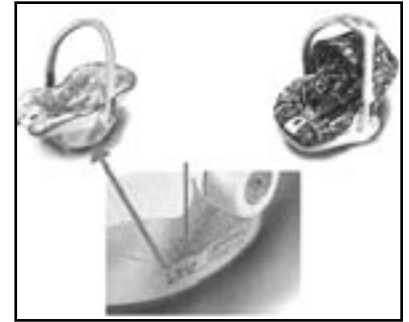
Graco has extended the dates of an earlier-announced recall on its SnugRide infant car seat. The new extension includes infant seats manufactured from March 1, 2002, through March 8, 2003. According to Graco, some of the seats are missing essential hardware

that is necessary for attaching the car safety seat into the base. The seat can be used without the base until it has been inspected and, if necessary, replaced at no charge. For specific model numbers and more information, call 866.473.0163 or visit www.gracobaby.com.

Cosco Recall of Car Seats Reminder

Dorel/Cosco is reminding consumers of its recalled Cosco Touriva convertible T-shield car seat because only 4 percent of owners have contacted Cosco for a free repair kit. The seat initially was recalled in April 2000 and involves models made from May 1996 to November 1997. The buckles on the seats did not release properly after dynamic tests, which could make it difficult for a child to be removed

from the seat following a crash. Owners should contact Cosco at 800.221.6736 or go to www.djgusa.com to obtain a free repair kit.



Understanding Advanced Air Bags

Some 2004 model year vehicles will be equipped with advanced air bags (AABs), as the newest generation of air bags required under federal motor vehicle safety standards is phased in.

The goal of the new standard is to make frontal air bags more effective in protecting unbelted adults than current air bags, without increasing the likelihood of air bag-related death or injury. Vehicle manufacturers will use different technologies to accomplish the goal. Advanced air bags will have the capability of automatically reducing power or shutting off the air bag temporarily, depending on the weight, position, posture or restraint use of the front seat occupant.

According to an article in Safe Ride News, the following scenarios could be possible: (1) if AAB sensors detected a rear-facing infant in a restraint in the passenger seat, it would suppress the air

bag temporarily; (2) if the right seat were totally unoccupied, the air bag would not inflate; and (3) if a short driver were seated close to the steering wheel, the AAB would not inflate or would inflate with reduced force.

To understand the types of air bags installed in their vehicles, consumers should refer to their vehicle's owner manual. Vehicles that fully comply with the new advanced air bag standard will have a subheading on the WARNING label attached to the vehicle sun visor.

Even with the onset of advanced air bags, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends the following:

- Children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.
- Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an air bag in the front seat.
- Anyone riding in the front seat should buckle up correctly and sit upright with feet on the floor.

